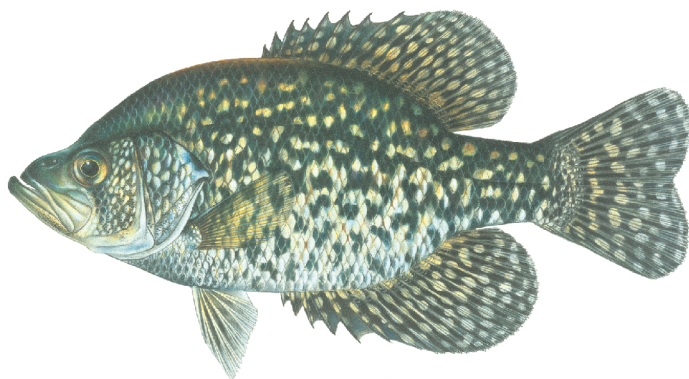


Black crappie

Pomoxis nigromaculatus



Similar Species: White crappie

Identification: Usually seven to eight hard spines in dorsal (back) fin, mottled coloring on side, breeding male black under chin and breast.

Black crappies may not have been native to South Dakota, but they have been introduced into natural lakes and impoundments throughout the state. Like the white crappie, the black crappie feeds on zooplankton, insects, and fish. The black crappie is more likely to be found in clearer waters than the white crappie. Black crappies and white crappies are some of the most popular panfish in South Dakota waters. Crappies can have slow growth and “stunt” in small impoundments that do not contain sufficient predators. Average adult crappies in South Dakota range from 8 to 12 inches with some reaching lengths of 15 inches and weights of 2 1/2 pounds.

